



## CA statement for Gran Bargain annual meeting 2023

Christian Aid welcomes the progress made by the Grand Bargain (GB) signatories in the last 7 years as evidenced by the ODI independent review in 2023. We are encouraged by the change in policy by major donors such as ECHO with their equitable partnership guidance, and USAID with their strengthening civil society policy. We applaud donors such as Danida and Irish Aid for their progressive policies that are putting in place the GB commitments in a practical way. These should be examples for other donors to follow. Much work needs to be done, especially in moving the policy to practice at country level. We welcome and emphasise the review which recommends 'A quantifiable increase (with a collective target if feasible) in investments (from donors and aid organisations) to scale up programmes that support affected people to design and deliver responses to their own needs (e.g. the survivor and community led response approach)' an approach which us with Local to global Initiative allies and the communities we serve are using and is a concrete way of taking some of the GB rhetoric to the next level.

We ask for:

1. Donors to Invest in scaling up sclr in new crisis as it has shown how effective and cost efficient such approaches are.
2. Donors and UN to ensure their country directors engage with GB country processes so we can move the centre of gravity from Geneva to Goma, from Brussels to Bogota, from New York to Lilongwe
3. Donors to use conditionalities to incentivise their intermediaries, being INGOs, UNs and Red Cross societies, to walk the talk on localisation and participation.

In this last 7 years Christian Aid made significant changes to its way of working as evidenced by the ODI report.

- ODI cites Christian Aid as having made the most significant policy shift of all signatories this year in favour of accelerating localisation: "Christian Aid took an institutional decision in 2022 to phase out all direct implementation programmes by 2024, meaning thereafter 100% of programming will be delivered by local and national partners".
- The report note that Christian Aid is one of only 4 NGO GB signatories who is able to assess how much of the flexible multi-year unearmarked funding we receive is passed on in flexible form to our local partners, and that of the 4 we rank second highest.
- Christian Aid is also cited as being front-runners in sharing overheads with local partners: "Christian Aid has an Indirect Overheads Policy under which they split equally the overheads they receive from upstream donors with their local and national partners, and they provide overhead costs to local and national partners of 10% on projects funded by Christian Aid supporter income. Improved tracking and investments in this regard have seen the provision of overhead costs to local partners increase from £260,000 in financial year 2021-22 to an estimated £1.25m in financial year 2022-23.



- In the last 7 years Christian Aid has consistently been in the top 10 achieving more than 25% of direct funding to local actors.
- We are cited as one of only two of the 63 signatories, alongside ICRC who are able to articulate in a compelling way how affected people have influenced or helped drive programme design. "Christian Aid reported on the expansion of its flagship survivor and community led response projects in Lebanon, East Africa and Ukraine through which the use of 70% of project funds are decided upon by survivors themselves".
- We are working as part of the Charter for Change with Trocaire, CAFOD, CRS, Humentum, Kerk-in-Actie, SCIAF and Tearfund to explore ways forward on harmonization, simplification and passporing of due diligence.
- Additionally, Christian Aid is an active member of Pledge for Change and Charter for Change which increase the opportunities for us to be held accountable by our partners for how well we were walking our localization talk.

We are encouraged that the GB was agreed to continue, being the only platform where different constituency can engage on equal level, and the focus on quality funding, localization and participation remain central to the agenda for change. The renewed focus on nexus and anticipatory action can only reinforce the global architecture change. Nevertheless, despite the progress the ODI report flagged the inequal distribution of resources both in terms of actors as well as by few high-profile crises. In the climate emergency the concentration of resources is dangerous and unsustainable. We ask for a more diverse and decentralised ecosystem where local actors play a leading role, and the GB is the space where this transition can occur.

In the next 3 years CA commits to continue its journey and we commit:

1. Continue our decolonization journey via commitments such as Charter for change and Pledge for change and be accountable to local actors.
2. Be an active member of the GB by engagement to achieve the focus areas offering practical examples and working collaboratively.
3. Constantly strive to improve data collection and reporting for the GB.
4. To increase our investment in survivor and community led response approach in new crisis to provide evidence to other actors of its viability and remain available to share its knowledge with other GB signatories.



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